Further a Council on Climate Change, chaired by Prime Minister, has been set up. This Council shall coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The focus of the Committee would be to:

(i) Evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the national level;

(ii) Provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change;

(iii) Periodically monitor key policy decisions.

High Acid Content in rainwater

*172. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has found high acid content in rainwater in Pune and Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) maintains a network of Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) stations that follow the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) norms. Rainwater samples collected at 10 locations are analyzed regularly and this data is available for about 28 years now.

The study mentioned in the question was conducted using this data and statistical analysis has shown an increasing acidity of the rain samples collected from Pune and Nagpur. However, the rain water at these places is still in the alkaline range due to the dominance of neutralizing agents in the dust.

Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti

* 173 KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for Indian Missions to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti in a special manner in view of the United Nations declaring Gandhi Jayanti as International Day of Non-violence; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to involve friends interested in Mahatma Gandhi in every country on that day?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On June 15, 2007 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on 'International Day of Non-Violence' piloted by India with the co-sponsorship of 142 countries to annually observe and